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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A clamping plate assembly for movement laterally into and out of engagement with a load including in combination:

a main plate member having front, rear, upper and lower edges; an auxiliary plate overlying the main plate member and extending from the lower edge of the main plate member a predetermined distance toward the upper edge thereof and extending substantially from the rear edge of the main plate member to the front edge thereof, with the auxiliary plate removably attached to the main plate member; and yieldable friction material over substantially the major portions of the auxiliary plate and the portion of the main plate member not covered by the auxiliary plate.

2. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1 wherein the yieldable friction material is selected to be made of resilient compressible material.

3. A clamping plate according to Claim 2 wherein the yieldable friction material is a compressible rubber-like material.

4. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 3 wherein the yieldable friction material is bonded to the auxiliary plate and the portion of the main plate member not covered by the auxiliary plate.

1 5. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 4 wherein the
2 yieldable friction material is a rubber-like material having a
3 plurality of closed spaced grooves in it extending parallel to one
4 another between the front and lower edges of the main plate member
5 and substantially parallel to the upper and lower edges of the main
6 plate member.

7 6. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 5 wherein the
8 thickness of the yieldable friction material is between 5/8" and 1
9 1/4" in the portions between the grooves therein.
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11 7. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 6 wherein the
12 main plate member and the auxiliary plate are made of aluminum.
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14 8. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 7 further
15 including recessed bolts for removably attaching the auxiliary
16 plate to the main plate member.
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18 9. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 8 wherein the
19 auxiliary plate has a front edge and a rear edge, with the rear
20 edge thereof substantially terminating in the same plane as the
21 rear edge of the main plate member and the front edge of the
22 auxiliary plate terminating a short distance from the front edge of
23 the main plate member, and further including a wear resistant nose
24 piece attached to the main plate member between the front edge
25 thereof and the front edge of the auxiliary plate.
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1 10. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 9 wherein
the nose piece is made of wear resistant material.

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11. The clamping plate assembly according to Claim 9 wherein
the nose piece is made of aluminum with the front edge thereof
tapering from the front edge of the main plate member outwardly
from the main plate member to a surface located in a plane parallel
to the main plate member.

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11. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 11 wherein
the thickness of the combination of the auxiliary plate and the
yieldable friction material thereon is greater than the maximum
thickness of the nose piece.

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11. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 12 wherein
the auxiliary plate and the nose piece are removably attached to
the main plate member with countersunk bolts, the exposed heads
thereof being below the exposed surfaces of the auxiliary plate and
the nose piece.

1 14. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 13 wherein
2 the thickness of the yieldable friction material on the portion of
3 the main plate member is greater than the thickness of the
4 auxiliary plate; and the thickness of the yieldable friction
5 material on the auxiliary plate is selected to cause the exposed
6 surface of the yieldable friction material on the auxiliary plate
7 to be in the same plane as the exposed surface of the yieldable
8 friction material on the main plate assembly.

9 15. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1 wherein
10 the auxiliary plate has a front edge and a rear edge, with the rear
11 edge thereof substantially terminating in the same plane as the
12 rear edge of the main plate member and the front edge of the
13 auxiliary plate terminating a short distance from the front edge of
14 the main plate member, and further including a wear resistant nose
15 piece attached to the main plate member between the front edge
16 thereof and the front edge of the auxiliary plate.

17 16. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 15 wherein
18 the nose piece is made of wear resistant material.

19 17. The clamping plate assembly according to Claim 16 wherein
20 the nose piece is made of aluminum with the front edge thereof
21 tapering from the front edge of the main plate member outwardly
22 from the main plate member to a surface located in a plane parallel
23 to the main plate member.

1 18. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 17 wherein
2 the thickness of the combination of the auxiliary plate and the
3 yieldable friction material thereon is greater than the maximum
4 thickness of the nose piece.

5 19. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 18 wherein
6 the auxiliary plate and the nose piece are removably attached to
7 the main plate member with countersunk bolts, the exposed heads
8 thereof being below the exposed surfaces of the auxiliary plate and
9 the nose piece.

10 20. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 13 wherein
11 the thickness of the yieldable friction material on the portion of
12 the main plate member is greater than the thickness of the
13 auxiliary plate; and the thickness of the yieldable friction
14 material on the auxiliary plate is selected to cause the exposed
15 surface of the yieldable friction material on the auxiliary plate
16 to be in the same plane as the exposed surface of the yieldable
17 friction material on the main plate assembly.

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20 21. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 20 wherein
21 the yieldable friction material is a rubber-like material having a
22 plurality of closed spaced grooves in it extending parallel to one
23 another between the front and lower edges of the main plate member
24 and substantially parallel to the upper and lower edges of the main
25 plate member.

1 22. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 21 wherein
2 the thickness of the yieldable friction material is between 5/8" and
3 1 1/4" in the portions between the grooves therein.

4 23. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1 wherein
5 the main plate member and the auxiliary plate are made of aluminum.

6 24. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1 wherein
7 the yieldable friction material is bonded to the auxiliary plate
8 and the portion of the main plate member not covered by the
9 auxiliary plate.

10 25. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1 further
11 including recessed bolts for removably attaching the auxiliary
12 plate to the main plate member.

13 26. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1 wherein
14 the thickness of the yieldable friction material on the portion of
15 the main plate member is greater than the thickness of the
16 auxiliary plate; and the thickness of the yieldable friction
17 material on the auxiliary plate is selected to cause the exposed
18 surface of the yieldable friction material on the auxiliary plate
19 to be in the same plane as the exposed surface of the yieldable
20 friction material on the main plate assembly.

1 27. A clamping plate assembly for movement laterally into and
2 out of engagement with a load including in combination:

3 a main rectangular plate member having front, rear, upper
4 and lower edges; an auxiliary plate overlying the main plate member
5 and extending from the lower edge of the main plate member a short
6 distance toward the upper edge thereof and extending substantially
7 from the rear edge of the main plate member to the front edge
8 thereof, the short distance being a minor portion of the distance
9 between the lower and upper edges of the main backing plate member
10 and with the auxiliary plate removably attached to the main plate
11 member; and yieldable friction material attached to and covering
12 substantially the major portion of the auxiliary plate and the
13 portion of the main plate member not covered by the auxiliary
14 plate.

15 28. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 27 wherein
16 the yieldable friction material is selected to be made of resilient
17 compressible material.

18 29. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 28 wherein
19 the yieldable friction material is a rubber-like material having a
20 plurality of closed spaced grooves in it extending parallel to one
21 another between the front and lower edges of the main plate member
22 and substantially parallel to the upper and lower edges of the main
23 plate member.

1 30. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 29 wherein
2 the thickness of the yieldable friction material is between 3/8"
3 and 1 1/4" in the portions between the grooves therein.

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5 31. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 27 wherein
6 the auxiliary plate has a front edge and a rear edge, with the rear
7 edge thereof substantially terminating in the same plane as the
8 rear edge of the main plate member and the front edge of the
9 auxiliary plate terminating a short distance from the front edge of
10 the main plate member, and further including a wear resistant nose
11 piece attached to the main plate member between the front edge
12 thereof and the front edge of the auxiliary plate.

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14 32. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 31 wherein
15 the nose piece is made of wear resistant material.

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17 33. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 27 further
18 including recessed bolts for removably attaching the auxiliary
19 plate to the main plate member.

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21 34. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 33 wherein
22 the auxiliary plate and the nose piece are removably attached to
23 the main plate member with countersunk bolts, the exposed heads
24 thereof being below the exposed surfaces of the auxiliary plate and
25 the nose piece.

1 35. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 27 wherein
2 the yieldable friction material is bonded to the auxiliary plate
3 and the portion of the main plate member not covered by the
auxiliary plate.

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